

## Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Description of Completed Projects

### Tijuana River Estuary and Watershed Program

- Tijuana Model Marsh Restoration

#### C1. Tijuana Model Marsh Restoration

**Date Completed:** 2/00

**Local Lead:** Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association

Restore approximately 20 acres of intertidal salt marsh by excavating approximately 135,000 cubic yards of fill. Site includes disturbed upland and wetland transitional habitats. Excavated material is to be used in gravel quarry reclamation/coastal maritime scrub habitat restoration. The wetland project design incorporates research on the impact of tidal channels and variable planting regimens.

Construction of marsh and quarry reclamation are complete. .

**Total cost:** \$3,232,111

<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$1,582,111
	Coastal Conservancy	\$850,000
	USFWS-National Coastal Wetlands Grant	\$800,000

**Last updated:** 4/4/1998

### San Elijo Lagoon Enhancement Program

- San Elijo Lagoon Exotics Removal
- San Elijo Lagoon Preliminary Sediment Quality Assessment
- San Elijo Lagoon Tidal Flushing Project

#### C2. San Elijo Lagoon Exotics Removal

**Date Completed:** 2/01

**Local Lead:** San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

Remove exotics plants from approximately 2.4 acres along the southern edge of San Elijo Lagoon and revegetate with native riparian and buffer species. The project area is one of several targeted for removal of exotic species in the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy Action Plan. The project is the first in an extended effort to rid the lagoon of exotic species and re-establish the native vegetation. Habitat values of the property have been severely degraded by invasive species, predominantly giant reed and castor bean. Vegetation will be mechanically removed from the site and the site will be revegetated.

**Total cost:** \$73,000

<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$63,000
	San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy	\$10,000

**Last updated:** 4/10/2002

#### C3. San Elijo Lagoon Preliminary Sediment Quality Assessment

**Date Completed:** 4/02

**Local Lead:** San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

Perform preliminary assessment of sediment quality and depositional environment of San Elijo Lagoon as the first step in a feasibility analysis of dredging activities proposed in the SEL Action Plan. The sediment assessment will review existing sediment data and collect new data on sediment texture, contaminants, nutrients, and deposition patterns. This sediment testing will not be sufficient to meet all future regulatory needs, but will provide preliminary data for regulatory use.

The San Elijo Action Plan recommends dredging several areas of the lagoon to increase the tidal prism and ecological health of the lagoon. The character and toxicity of lagoon sediments will be a significant factor in determining the economic feasibility of carrying out these projects.

<b>Total cost:</b>		\$133,882
<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$67,000
	USFWS-Coastal Program Challenge Grant	\$66,882

**Last updated:** 4/10/2002

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#### **C4. San Elijo Lagoon Tidal Flushing Project**

**Date Completed:** 12/99

**Local Lead:** San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

Restore continuous tidal action to 415 acres of degraded salt marsh through ongoing removal of sand and cobble from the mouth of the lagoon. Project also includes annual monitoring of biological and hydrological conditions. Restoration would be funded in perpetuity through establishment of an endowment fund. Continuous tidal circulation would be achieved through dredging the lagoon mouth an average of three times per year. This would include one large-scale dredging activity both east and west of the Highway 101 bridge, and two smaller operations on the west side of the bridge. This non-structural restoration project would cost a fraction of the structural alternative with far fewer impacts to the environment and surrounding community. Restoring tidal action is a prerequisite to implementing several other projects identified in the enhancement plan.

<b>Total cost:</b>		\$2,300,000
<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$1,700,000
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$95,000
	County of San Diego	\$250,000
	San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy	\$255,000

**Last updated:** 4/10/2002

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#### **C5. San Joaquin Marsh Enhancement - Phase I**

**Date Completed:** 1/00

**Local Lead:** University of California, Irvine

Enhance approximately 50 acres of existing freshwater marsh habitat on the San Joaquin Freshwater Marsh Reserve as part of an effort to restore the natural gradient found historically at Southern California coastal wetlands. The project also includes creation of some coastal sage scrub habitat. The project is being undertaken in a 75-acre portion of the 200-acre San Joaquin Reserve, which lies adjacent to, but disconnected from, San Diego Creek just upstream of Upper Newport Bay. The project area contains several different habitats, including perennial and seasonal freshwater to brackish marsh and ponds; riparian woodlands, and degraded coastal sage scrub. One of the main features of the project site is a series of former duck ponds, which have become filled with sediment and vegetation over the years, due in part to the lack of a consistent water supply that can be managed to sustain a variety of marsh habitats. The project focuses on restoring these ponds, developing a water intake and distribution system, and re-establishing native vegetation.

Construction was completed in January 2000. Coastal sage scrub planting will be completed in Fall of 2000.

<b>Total cost:</b>		\$2,492,900
<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$517,900
	Coastal Conservancy	\$700,000
	San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Authorit	\$400,000
	Irvine and Clarke Foundation	\$125,000
	League for Coastal Protection	\$750,000

Last updated: 2/4/2000

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**C6. Huntington Beach Acquisitions, Edison property**

**Date Completed:** 10/01

**Local Lead:** Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy

Acquire 20 acre parcel of the Huntington Beach wetlands adjacent to power plant. The property will be owned and managed by the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy.

**Total cost:** \$945,000

<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$675,000
	County of Orange--EPA Fine	\$270,000

Last updated: 4/12/2002

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**C7. El Dorado Wetlands Restoration Plan**

**Date Completed:** 1/02

**Local Lead:** City of Long Beach

Prepare a plan to restore up to 20 acres of wetlands at the confluence of the San Gabriel River and Coyote Creek, adjacent to the El Dorado Nature Park. Project site is located south of Willow Street, contiguous with the El Dorado Park Nature Center. The restoration plan will look at several alternatives for developing wetlands at this site, including developing seasonal wetlands with periodic flooding. Potential water sources include the San Gabriel River or an existing lake and creek at the Nature Center. Enhancement plans would include an interpretive program and limited public access, probably limited to the periphery. The City has \$100,000 to do a Master Plan for the Nature Center and the area south of Willow Street.

The City owns approximately 7 acres at this site; the remainder is part of a Southern California Edison right-of-way. The City is discussing use of this right-of-way with SCE. The property is occasionally used for retention of flood waters. It is located approximately 2.5 miles north of the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

**Total cost:** \$200,000

**Funding:** City of Long Beach \$100,000

**Cost Notes:** City of Long Beach completed restoration plan without WRP funding.

Last updated: 2/18/2000

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**C8. Upper Zuniga Road Acquisitions**

**Date Completed:** 11/01

**Local Lead:** Mountains Restoration Trust

Acquire approximately 120 acres in the upper Topanga watershed including Zuniga Pond. The Mountains Restoration Trust has opened escrow on three parcels in the project area. The subject property is located near Upper Zuniga Road and includes a manmade pond that supports western pond turtle habitat, a state-listed species of special concern. The site also provides suitable habitat for rock crevice dwelling western mastiff bats and the San Diego Coast Horned Lizard, which are also species of concern. The pond is filled seasonally and supports a well-developed cattail-willow community. The pond is located close to the creek, allowing the turtles to migrate between the creek and the pond.

**Total cost:** \$1,000,000

<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$250,000
	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	\$750,000

Last updated: 3/13/2000

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**C9. Topanga Lagoon and Watershed Restoration Feasibility Study**

**Date Completed:** 5/02

**Local Lead:** RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains

Prepare feasibility studies needed to determine the potential for restoring some of the historic extent and function of Topanga Creek and Lagoon. As part of the studies, the creek's physical processes would be evaluated including flooding, sedimentation, hydrology, water quality, land use, wildfires, and invasive species.

Topanga Creek is the third largest watershed along Santa Monica Bay and supports excellent biodiversity. Adult and juvenile steelhead have been documented in the creek in 1999 and 2000. A major piece of the former lagoon part of Topanga County Beach. Another portion is owned by LA Athletic Club and is under option for parkland acquisition. Potential restoration of the lagoon would be enhanced by this acquisition, but is not dependent on it.

<b>Total cost:</b>		\$483,800
<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$110,000
	Dept. of Conservation	\$5,500
	Dept. of Forestry	\$39,500
	California EPA	\$53,800
	Dept. of Fish and Game	\$92,000
	Dept. of Water Resources	\$13,000
	Coastal Conservancy	\$50,000
	Los Angeles County, DPW	\$23,000
	Topanga Watershed Committee	\$9,000
	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project	\$58,000
	RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains	\$30,000

**Last updated:** 5/7/2002

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**C10. Tuna Canyon SEA Acquisition**

**Date Completed:** 5/02

**Local Lead:** Mountains Restoration Trust

Acquire approximately 417 acres of land at the lower end of Tuna Canyon to protect a perennial spring and well-developed riparian habitat. The acquisition fills a critical gap, connecting State Parks' lower Topanga Canyon property to the west with the Mann property to the east, recently acquired by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, to form an integrated conservation area encompassing some of the most significant environmental assets of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Tuna Canyon SEA project encompasses nearly pristine watershed communities, including riparian wetland habitat, native oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub and chaparral-covered hillsides. These habitats support a wide variety of the native wildlife of the Santa Monica Mountains. Acquisition will protect several rare, endangered, or threatened species and protect regionally significant wildlife corridors and linkages between Topanga State Park and Malibu Creek State Park. The Tuna Canyon area is also an important habitat for migratory songbirds. The site potentially supports numerous other sensitive wildlife species including, but not limited to, San Diego desert wood rat, peregrine falcon, northern harrier, coastal whiptail, San Bernardino ringneck snake, and San Diego mountain king snake. The project contains the entire lower portion of Tuna Canyon Creek, a pure, free-running stream that plunges seaward in a series of waterfalls and pools from an elevation of 1500 feet to Santa Monica Bay. A portion of Pena Canyon Creek and its watershed are also covered by the project.

<b>Total cost:</b>		\$1,625,000
<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$800,000
	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	\$75,000
	Coastal Conservancy	\$700,000
	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$50,000

**Last updated:** 5/7/2002

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**C11. Cold Creek Riparian Acquisitions, Part 1****Date Completed:** 10/01**Local Lead:** Mountains Restoration Trust

Acquire 71.5 acres of upland and riparian habitat along Cold Creek, a tributary to Malibu Creek. Approximately 32 acres of the property are riparian habitat, with the riparian corridor ranging from 100 to 800 feet wide. The proposed acquisition is part of the Cold Creek Restoration Plan, a comprehensive acquisition and enhancement program for the watershed. The project site will become part of the Cold Creek Preserve owned and managed by the Mountains Restoration Trust. Cold Creek is a largely undisturbed creek that historically provided habitat for the Steelhead trout.

**Total cost:** \$1,950,000

<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$719,000
	County of Los Angeles	\$786,000
	Mountains Restoration Trust -- private donation	\$545,000

**Last updated:** 3/6/2001**Calleguas Creek and Watershed Program**

- Grimes Canyon Stream Restoration Project

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**C12. Grimes Canyon Stream Restoration Project****Date Completed:** 5/02**Local Lead:** RCD of Ventura County

Complete stream bank stabilization and revegetation project in Grimes Canyon, a tributary to Calleguas Creek. This project is already underway with funding from the Conservancy and U.S. EPA, and in-kind services from adjacent landowners. Additional funding is needed to complete the project. Grimes Canyon is a major source of sediment input to Calleguas Creek. The project is intended to demonstrate innovative, environmentally-sensitive streambank stabilization methods that can be implemented by farmers throughout the watershed.

**Total cost:** \$931,400

<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$100,000
	Coastal Conservancy	\$505,600
	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	\$182,500
	Ventura County RCD and landowners (in-kind)	\$143,300

**Last updated:** 3/1/2001**Ventura River Watershed Program**

- Matilija Dam Evaluation Project

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**C13. Matilija Dam Evaluation Project****Date Completed:** 1/01**Local Lead:** County of Ventura

Perform various studies to evaluate the feasibility of removing Matilija Dam on the Ventura River to restore natural water and sediment flows, and provide access to upstream steelhead trout habitat. The SCWRP funds will be used to investigate the most efficient and cost-effective way to remove concrete from the dam. Concrete will be removed from the side of the dam, where it is already notched. There will be no effect on water storage or sediment flows from this pilot project.

Other studies being undertaken include a reconnaissance study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will include an initial engineering study, and various technical studies by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Service including sediment analysis, characterization of downstream habitat, analysis of impact of sediment releases of various sizes on downstream habitat

**Total cost:** \$615,000

<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$200,000
	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation/USGS	\$280,000
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$100,000
	County of Ventura (inkind)	\$35,000

**Last updated:** 5/7/2002

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#### **C14. Arroyo Hondo Ranch Acquisition**

**Date Completed:** 10/01

**Local Lead:** Land Trust of Santa Barbara County

Acquire 778 acres of riparian and grassland habitat along Arroyo Hondo Creek on the Gaviota Coast. The Arroyo Hondo Ranch extends from the coast up to the Los Padres National Forest. The property boundaries follow the ridgelines on either side of the canyon, and encompass almost all of the watershed. Arroyo Hondo Creek flows year-round all the way to the ocean and supports known populations of steelhead trout (endangered), red-legged frog (threatened) and California newt and southwestern pond turtles (both listed as species of concern in California.).

<b>Total cost:</b>	\$6,176,000
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<b>Funding:</b>	SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$1,000,000
	Coastal Conservancy	\$3,000,000
	Santa Barbara County	\$350,000
	Land Trust of Santa Barbara County	\$1,826,000

**Last updated:** 2/18/2000

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